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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

REVIEW OF INSURGENCY PROBLEMS

This publication provides a periodic review of internal security in underdeveloped countries where there is a threat from Communist-supported insurgency.

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

Office of Current Intelligence

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CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Congo (Leopoldville)	1
Laos	1
Colombia	2
Guatemala	2
Venezuela	3

SECRET

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25X1

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUMReview of Insurgency Problems**1. Congo (Leopoldville)**

Government troops on 1 June captured Buta, the headquarters of the largest band of rebels left in the northeast. Preliminary reports indicate that at least 17 and possibly many more European hostages were killed before the insurgents fled into the jungle. Now that hostages have been slain, it seems probable that the campaign to clear the regions around Buta will be protracted. Although the rebels in the area, who are fairly well armed, may be able to mount limited harassing operations, government troops probably will prevail eventually.

Elsewhere in the northeast, the government continues to hold the military initiative against faltering rebel resistance. Government units which recently occupied Isangi--90 miles downriver from Stanleyville--are slowly extending their control outside that town. A recent barge shipment reached Stanleyville without rebel harassment.

The Sudanese and Ugandan border areas continue to be calm. Rebels camped in the Sudan are reported to be demoralized, and Sudanese Army units now are controlling their movements.

In the eastern Congo, ANC units from Kindu continue to advance into the rebel held areas west of Fizi. Rebels from the Fizi stronghold continue to threaten Albertville, but the government still holds strategic locations north of the city (see map).

2. Laos

Limited Communist military activity occurred in widely separated areas of Laos during the past week. In the northwest, Communist forces, possibly including a PAVN company, seized a government guerrilla position approximately 20 miles southwest of Nam Tha on 25 May. Other government units continue to hold entrenched positions in the area, but continuing Communist clearing operations are likely.

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To the east in Sam Neua Province, an uneasy quiet prevails following Communist attempts to dislodge government forces ensconced on Route 6 north of Na Khang. The Communists suffered heavy casualties in last week's operations and continue to have only limited success in their five-month effort to drive friendly forces from Route 6. At the same time, however, they continue to extend the motorable section of Route 6 southwest of Sam Neua town, facilitating both the supply of troops engaged in the clearing operation and the longer range objective of opening another supply route from North Vietnam to the Plaine des Jarres.

In the panhandle, a period of watchful waiting prevails. Government forces continue to expect Communist attacks in the Muong Pha Lane - Dong Hene area where a concentration of enemy forces has been reported, but so far there have been only a few minor skirmishes.

The Communists may have stepped up efforts to improve their security along Route 23, the most important supply route in the southern panhandle. A roadwatch team which has provided the most complete coverage and best information available on Communist truck traffic on Route 23 has not reported in over a week and may have been driven from its position by Communist security elements.

3. Colombia

The crisis of the last two weeks of May seems to have abated. The extremist-led student group which incited the student riots in the major cities has been placated by the discharge of the controversial rector of the University of Antioquia in Medellin. The only overt complication in the national government resulting from the discharge of the rector is the subsequent resignation of the foreign minister, whose loyalty to President Valencia is unquestioned but whose loyalty to the rector, an old family friend, is even greater.

4. Guatemala

The Soviets have apparently renewed their interest in assisting the Guatemalan Communist Party (PGT).

-2-

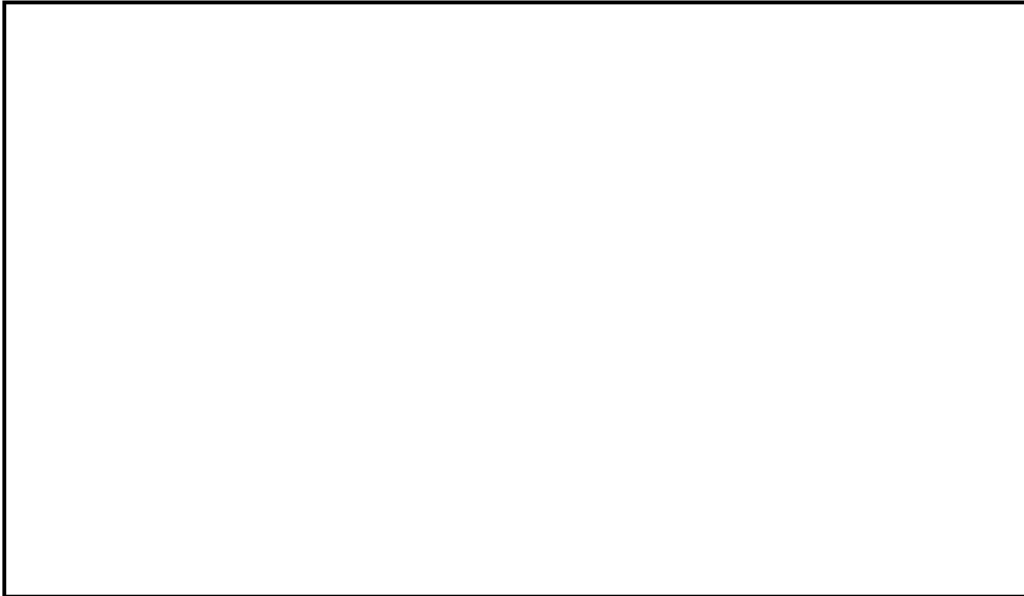
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In the past month the PGT has shown signs of revival, possibly because of reported financial help from the USSR. The party has reoriented its structure toward military and paramilitary organization, and has inaugurated a new clandestine guerrilla publication to compete with "13 November" literature.

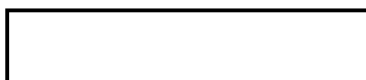
The growth of pro-Chinese sentiment within the PGT at a time when the Guatemalan political situation is deteriorating may also have led the Soviets to lend assistance to the weakened orthodox party.

In what appeared to be an act of terrorism, Deputy Minister of Defense Ernesto Molina Arreaga was assassinated by a burst of machine-gun fire in Guatemala City on 21 May.

5. Venezuela

Urban terrorism continues. On 18 May terrorists caused an explosion in a Pepsi-Cola bottling plant in Caracas; on 19 May terrorists

-3-

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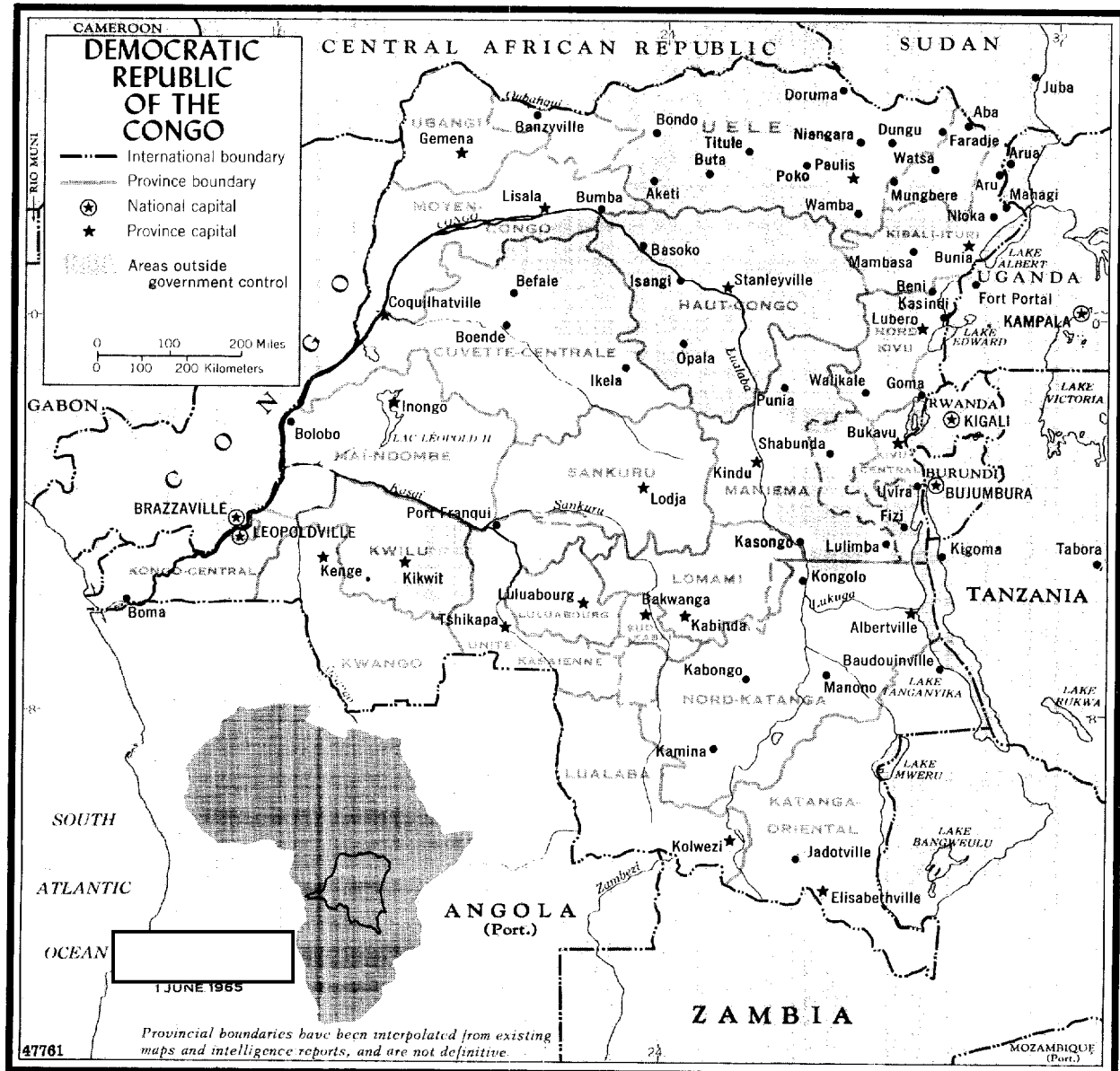
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set fire to a US cosmetics firm, causing about \$10,000 worth of damage; and on 25 May students hurled gasoline bombs at two American-owned firms. In addition, there was some guerrilla activity in western Venezuela. A clash between guerrillas and Venezuelan Army units took place on 18 May in Falcon State, and on 22 May it was reported that 3 soldiers were killed and 17 wounded in an ambush by guerrillas in Lara State.

On 31 May a Venezuelan student escaped from Armed Forces of National Liberation (FALN) kidnapers who had held him for several days while demanding a large sum from his father, a prominent Venezuelan businessman, for his safe return. This is the first instance of the FALN's kidnaping of a Venezuelan national and of its use of kidnaping for financial gain.

-4-

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